

A close-up photograph of two hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, clasped together in a supportive grip. The hands are positioned over a background of green grass. The text is overlaid on the hands.

CRYING FOR LITTLE SOULS!

Pheeha Lethabo

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CONTENT_SHEET

Introduction

- About Crying for little souls
 - What do we learn about Crying for little souls?

- About Pheeha Makwa

- What is a Drama?
 - important dramatic features of the play

- Summary of the plot and commentary
 - Plot summary quick reference
- Meet the characters

About Crying For Little Souls

Pheeha Makwa Lethabo's book crying for little souls was written on the 4th of January 2020 after the declaration

of Discrimination in the past years when was acclaimed that immigrants are adulterating South Africa.

Lethabo wrote his book in attempt of giving a vicious bonding agent that immigrants do not just be fluent in coming to South Africa, uncertainty we see them coming in South Africa it gives the impression that back where they are coming from things do not grind out.

- **What do we learn about Crying for little souls?**

- Actions are a better reflection of one's character because it's easy to say things, but difficult to act on them and follow through.
- It's better to deal with problems immediately rather than wait by when they worsen and become much bigger; Maluri does not want to arrest people who raped her because she knows if they get arrested even Lesiba will be and her life will no longer matter, she had thought it will never happen again
- People who appear threatening rarely do harm; Lesiba is threatening Maluri that if she does not give him what he want he will take it by force.
- People who depend on the generosity of others can't pick and choose things as per their liking. They've to accept what is given to them; Maluri is being treated

like a slave at Lesiba's house because her life depend on them she cannot act on it.

- Don't take more responsibility than you can handle; lesiba asked Cobra to kidnap Maluri and promised him to pay a big money for that yet Lesiba fails to pay the amount of money he promised because he really cannot meet the expenses.
- Your own actions and decisions decide what you achieve (or don't) in life; Lesiba was always a heartless man, not caring about anyone else and now he is at prison and the prisoners treat him heartlessly
- Consider all consequences before taking an action, especially when you can't retract; Maria shot Maluri just after finding out that Maluri is carrying his husband's baby ;Maria thought maybe Maluri was sleeping with Lesiba while she was away to a school trip and believed the rumor that was hovering at school only to find out that Lesiba had a hand on Maluri's dismissal and he as well raped Maluri .Maluri was afraid to say it to Maria and even to the Law enforcement agency because she depended on Lesiba for a living. Maria is arrested for killing Maluri.

About Pheeha Makwa Lethabo



Pheeha Makwa Lethabo

Pheeha Makwa Lethabo was born on the 17th of August 2002; He was born and raised in Limpopo. He pondered himself as an aspiring writer, a poet and a minstrel; He started writing on the early age of 10 when he was in grade 4 in the year 2011. He merged a faculty drama group where he mastered the skill of writing and acting in the year 2014 when he was in grade 7. When he was in grade 8 he joined a faculty art quiz where they

recited poems, debating, telling short-stories (folktales) and appealing as a product of inspiring his knowledge of art. When he was in grade 9 he used to cast-off his contemporaries and part with them his own transcribed fairy stories; from the modifications witnessed from people who grace with presence to his fairy stories, he became conscious of writing a book by means of appealing not objecting people on his surrounding but the world as a whole. When he was in grade 11, he wrote his first book titled ***'The bending of the road is not the end of the road'***. On the succeeding year he wrote another book titled ***'Crying for little souls'***. The setting of the book is grounded on Xenophobia and Violence. He initiated a play group with his associates at church as actors and he wrote and directed the plays. He started writing on A4 rag sheets by dint of poems and short dramas; the poems and the dramas he wrote had an impact in our day to day lives and he would render them to different events like church, school and to the society. The reason why he found in writing is he want to part an intense consciousness of the world, he want to share with people about the other side of dealing with their teething troubles, How can societies resolve their conflicts and live in peace, how can different groups of people or races can live pleasantly; how can the people of the world learn to defend their surroundings. His determination in writing is to brand peace and love to the world as a whole; to help the gone astray

minds find themselves, to motivate people who gave up in life that it is not their end, to unite the different races in the world and together we be one thing, In writing he be certain of he can minimize the engagements that take place nationwide. He do not write for wealthy, he write for the sickening minds to be healthy.

- What is a Drama?

- A drama brings of a text that is written with a performance and an audience in mind.

A composition normally in prose, telling a story and intended to be represented by actors impersonating the characters and speaking the dialogue.

- The drama script

- A drama script predominantly consist of :

- **Dialogue:** A conversation or other form of discourse between two or more individual's .In a dramatic or literary presentation, the verbal parts of the script or text; the verbalizations of the actors or characters.

- Stage directions :

- Setting

The setting is the place and time in which the play takes place

- The setting of ***Crying for little souls*** is based on Xenophobia and violence

- Plot

- The plot is the storyline .The storyline has a beginning, rising action, a climax and an end. The storyline is driven by conflicts.
- Conflict
 - Conflicts are events ,actions or problems that develop the plot .characters may be in conflict with themselves ,with other characters or with fate .Usually the different conflicts in the show drive the play to climax .In this play ,the main conflicts are between:
 - A husband and wife fighting because of a girl they offered a place to stay.
 - A landlord fighting against an occupant since she denies to sleep with him.
- Climax
 - The climax is the point at which the dramatic tension is at its highest .The climax of this play is when The occupant is killed
- Character

➤ The plot in a play is driven by a character or a few characters .They reveal themselves to the audience in their words and actions.

➤ In ***Crying for little souls*** the main characters are **Eleven(11)** Maluri, Mmapula, Lesiba, Maria, Cobra, Mpho, Thabo, Kacheru, Katlego, Sargent Mokoka and Mr. Ramorwalo.

CRYING FOR LITTLE SOULS

A fully clad young girl from Zimbabwe named Maluri lost her both parents when she was 19; she had only two little brothers and one sister to maintain ever since their parents are no more. In 11 months' time after the burial of her parents, one of her brothers was admitted at the indigenous hospital for he had collapsed from his hidden disease that maluri never knew of it, the doctors assumed to Maluri that her brother was suffering from Dyspnea and that needed currency to tickle it. Maluri found it hard to go to school and knocked out before the set time as a result of looking for premature job so that she could get money and buy medication for her sickened brother and with the remaining she may as well put bread on the table. Sometimes she would be lucky on out coming part job but occasionally they would sleep with empty stomachs. Maluri's closest relatives started to regard her with extreme dislike and hostility then that left her questions of where would she go If she came across difficulties. Maluri 's final thought was to go to South Africa as a result of working for her siblings for instance she got all responsibility. In South Africa Maluri met this benevolent girl named Mmapula whom felt pity for her since she had no place to stay. Mmapula asked Maluri to move on with her family for that little time until she finds her place, Maluri was happy about it and accepted the offer. Maluri mostly spent her time with Lesiba which is Mmapula's father as

they both worked together at Lesiba's garden where she was hired .Lesiba had to know why maluri was in South Africa and she explained it all her teething troubles. Lesiba took advantage that Maluri needed money and she could sleep with him for currency but it was a blind fortune he was wrong. In 3 years' time Lesiba started to be someone else and tailed Maluri from each step she took. Maria which is Lesiba's wife had a suspicion that Maluri had a secretive affair with her husband. In the meanwhile, Lesiba raped Maluri and she kept quiet that gave him an idea of doing it several times as he knew she won't speak since she depended on him for a living. Maluri fell pregnant of Lesiba's child and that was when Maluri was shot by Maria as she accused her of sleeping with her boss by means of a negative purpose.

Crying for Little souls

Meet the characters

Maluri

A 19 years old girl from Zimbabwe, She is the first born of Melfa and Ishmael Zafa. She is talkative but a self-effacement (humble) girl .She loves singing and reading occasionally; she hives from an underprivileged family in Zimbabwe .She have 3 siblings, the second one that follows her is 15 years old.

Mmapula

A 17 years old girl, well-known by a polite voice and reverential. She is the only child of Maria and Lesiba Pheeha. She has a decent temperament of helping folks but sometimes she loves forcing things.

Maria

A 47 years old woman which is Mmapula's mother. She as well likes helping people. She is a teacher at Mampodi primary school. She does not enjoy watching the bad happening to people close to her.

Lesiba

A 57 years old man which Is Mmapula's father. He is the owner of Batau Farm at Thakgalang village. He is a priest at

Baphologile Christian but a heartless man. He does not love helping people with anything that is his.

Thabo

A young decent boy that is 25 years old .his father is a Zimbabwean but his mother is not, his mother died when he was 12 and now he is staying with his father here in South Africa.

Kacheru

A 63 years old man which is Thabo's father. He cannot speak properly, he is (inarticulate). He does not like to see his son sad. He does not have a wife. He stays in a shack with his son Thabo.

Det. Mokoka

A 34 years old man .He is a Police officer at Morebeng Police station appropriated to investigate only rape and murder scenes.

Cobra

A 40 years old man.He is a drug dealer and a criminal. He is scary .He does not like people who take advantage of him, they do not get away with it. He owns a local tavern. He is well known as Golovan

Mpho

A 22 years old boy. He has no parents, he is working as a cleaner at Cobra's tavern but a criminal too. He is the most favorite to Cobra.

Katlego

A 23 years old boy. He stays with his blind grandma, he is working as a security guard at Cobra's tavern but a criminal too. He is well known by Goodman

Mr. Ramorwalo

A principal at Mampodi Primary school. He is 55 years old

Doctor D:

A professional doctor at Kgapane Hospital; He is 37 years old; he is short in height.

ACT 1
Scene 1

It was about 19h00 of a winter's night when Maluri arrived at Thakgalang Village

Maluri heard the signaling flutes commencing the dusky, while still mixed up she got attacked by two anonymous lawbreakers out of the blue and endangered to kill her, however they took her outstanding R5000.

Maluri: Help! Help! Help! *[Shouting in a heart provoking manner probing to be eavesdropped]*

Criminals: Hey! *Thula!*

Maluri: Please leave me alone! Let go of me please *[pause]* that is my outstanding money please do not take it!

Criminal: Hey '*phola wena phola!*' Do you see these gun? *[He shows Maluri the gun from his abdomen]* it will feed your mouth with bullets.

Maluri: I am up to scratch sir it is okay *[with too much fright]* take it.

Criminal: Gaze at me! Don't you dare say anything about tonight! Otherwise you want it to be your last; you little foreigner.

Maluri: I won't say anything sir, I did not see it happening *[she inarticulate regardless of her*

panic]

criminal: ‘*Hola! Hola!*’ Let’s set off gents

Maluri was left alone in a creepy night of a pity threat crying not knowing where to go, however she was thirsty and that consent her knocking doors asking for water though she is precluded

She knocks the main door and providentially the landlord reacted.

Maluri: Well met mamma, I am Maluri Zafa. *[She speaks placing down her hand baggage in spite of hand clasping the land holder but her greeting was forbidden]*

Woman 1: Evening *[pause]* we do not handclasp here! , are you looking for someone?

Maluri: Not really mamma *[pause]* I am desirous, I was thinking perhaps I get just a drop of water I will be alive...Please...maybe.

Woman 1: Ho! *[With a disgraceful face]* it’s a blind fortune young one; the municipality haven’t given us water yet; we do not have water. However I counsel you to attempt our neighbor, they might service.

Maluri: Cheers mam, thanks a lot for your time *[She says with humbleness; at the same time she access to the neighbor]*

Maluri: *[she knocks at the door and when they opened; for the reason that she is thirsty and startled, she falls off]* Mamma...

Woman 2: Hey! Hey vacate! Vacate, we do not have occupations here! If it ensues I hear you calling me your mamma or whatever I will make it your last!

Maluri: water *[with a Sunken voice]*

Woman 2: Whatever you lack we do not have it.

Maluri: Please have an understanding *[she begs while on her knees down]* I need water,*[pause]* water.

Woman 2: You foreigners though! Which part of “I have nothing to relief you with” don’t you understand? Huh! Please step back you even disturb my child is sleeping *[she closed the door behind Maluri]*

Maluri: God you said your realm will be done on Earth *[Maluri talks alone and the tear sunken from her eye]*

From there she saw a big tree along the street and saw her bedroom .As she was lying underneath the tree trying to force sleep she remembered her mother’s words” A chain is only as strong as its weakest link” And that motivated her to wake up and keep on exasperating. From there she walked a short distance and barged into the shop where she met one of the generous people on earth called Mmapula.

Cashier: Do not just stand there; come in young lady *[pause]* you are welcome at ‘Mokoka tucks’.

You seem to be worn-out young one [*he leaves peeling potatoes and diverted Maluri*]

Maluri: Ciao papa [*she puts her hand baggage sideways*]

Cashier: Ciao young lady; Come close [*pause*] How can I service you?

Maluri: Can I have water please?

Cashier: Water right...There is absolutely too much water at Mokoka tucks [*Pause*] we got Bonaque; River flow and FreshYo [*pause*] oh as well as Pure Lake ; they all worth the same price. 20 rand and 50 cent, all clean and tasty; ever drank a tasty water?

Maluri: Not really papa...I only have 15 Rand though I really need water, can I mayhap buy a half bottle?

Cashier: Then if you cannot meet the **expense** there is nothing I can do, unconditionally nothing...just go somewhere and please do not take it in a manic way young one, see I am running a business here [*pause*] if I give you water with that disorganized money then that's the jolt of my irresponsibility. I am remorseful

Maluri: Please papa even if it could be the **restroom** water there is no problem, I just need water.
[*She kneels, in the meanwhile people are looking at her mistrustfulness and muttering of her*]

Cashier: I am sorry I really cannot help you, there is a tavern on your right when you move out, and they sell low-priced water there.

Maluri: I will owe you then, please I need water, and it's been the whole day and... *[Pause]* I was attacked right just there so I fear going back.

Cashier: Then you are just wasting your time by being here *[pause]* don't you have a home, I hope that it won't take you the whole year to go home where you will get water for free...Water for free young one.

Maluri: Acceptable sir, thanks for your time.

Cahier: How come you are disparate for water like these?

Maluri: It appears like you are not on a formal of helping me; so why do you interrogate me such?

Cashier: You should be a non-national.

Maluri: what is the meaning of that sir? *[Pause]* what is a non-national anyway?

Cashier: Where are you coming from? I can see that you are not a citizen.

Maluri: Is that the reason why you cannot help me? Oh now I can see but that is not a problem sir, it is indeed real that beggars cannot be choosers.

Cashier: Please see the door behind you, see my

customers are now getting annoyed because of you, please excuse us young lady .Next time come with a jam-packed money then I can give you water without you begging for it .

Maluri: But sir please I really need water I cannot just leave, it feels like I am walking away off my life; take these R15 it is the money I have.

That one generous lady called Mmapula got in and found Maluri begging for water and offered to pay for her unknowingly

Mmapula: I will pay for you, save your money for the next day sister. *[She paid for 3 bottles of water on behalf of Maluri]* and please give me one loaf of Brown and another of white bread; Oh and with the change please give this sister of mine a packet of biscuits.

Maluri: *[she kneels as a result of honor to a one generous person whom helped her catch her breathe]* you are a life saver sister; you really played a big part thank you.

Mmapula: No do not kneel for me, **grip** my hand, it is not **indispensable** for you to go down on your knees *[She stances Maluri up]*.

Cashier: Do you know her? *[To Mmapula]*

Mmapula: Maybe I do, perhaps I don't.

Cahier: Here are your orders, two breads, one brown one white *[pause]* and a packet of biscuits for your sister.

Mmapula: Thanks... *[To Maluri]* Here...until we meet again.

Maluri: Hey wait *[pause]* can I go with you? I need to...

Mmapula: Sure...it is not a problem *[they had their way out of the shop]* so tell me who are you? Can I know you if you do not mind?

Maluri: Maluri Zafa *[pause]* Maluri Zafa from Zimbabwe.

Mmapula: Okay sister, it brings to me a tender joy to meet a sister from another country, I have hope you will go with me there next time, plus I always wanted to visit that place and discover courtesies.

Maluri: Since you helped me, I think I have no dead-on to say no to that...so; ja

Mmapula: That was nothing big though, I just paid for R75.00 not a million.

Maluri: To me it is a big agreement and with that I tend to owe you a big time, myself I failed to pay for that amount you are saying its small, is it still small? I mean when concerning it to me? Is it small?

Mmapula: I don't know *[pause]* I just like helping people, my father is a minister you know *[laughing]* and

he always teach me to help those who are needy,
he teaches me to help people because what you
do or how you behave determines what kind of a
person you will be in the future.

Maluri: Oh is your father a minister?

Mmapula: Ja and whenever he stands on the pawn
he... *[Laughing]* you know I just can't hold it.

Maluri: *[Laughing]* you are going to get me chuckling for
nothing now, tell me what you can't hold and
see if I can't hold it too or not .I want to laugh
over a reality.

Mmapula: Okay let me stop laughing and come to an end,
so I was saying... *[Pause]* ouch I forgot.

Maluri: “*whenever he stands on the pawn*” I guess we
were still on this.

Mmapula: *[Laughing]* Oh you would find him singing:

*Jesu rato la gago
o mphile lona; ke molato wa gago
Ke tla gofang; jesu rato...
jesu rato la gago, o mphile lona
ke molato wag ago ke tla gofang.
Ke ineya wena, ka mmele le moya;
ke ntsha ga nnyane o mpha tsohle*

Translation:

*God you gave me your love ;it is your mistake for I have nothing
to give in return*

*God you gave me your love ;it is your mistake for I have nothing
to give in return*

*I give myself to you with my soul, and my body
I know that is not enough because you give me more
than I ask for.*

Mmapula: And when he comes to the part where he should take the choral up *[laughing]* that's the becoming extinct part of the song. You will hear him saying "*Mam'Sbongile take over the child of God*" then we all know, the song had defeated him.

Maluri: *[laughing]* have you ever heard a priest that can sing? That is not usual.

Mmapula: You should wait for it when it comes.

Maluri: Your father must be a good man, the way you are talking of him he is absolutely a good man. Anyway we have walked a distance and haven't known you.

Mmapula: Oh I am sorry; from Thakgalang meet Mmapula Pheeha.

Maluri: I was thinking maybe you do not have a name; you know what I was going to call you?

Mmapula: I have no idea but I have a feeling of a pretty

name.

Maluri: I was going to call you Angel; you are indeed *[soft laugh]*

Mmapula: *[Laughing]* I liked the name' Angel' like Angelo.

Scene 2

AT LESIBA'S HOUSE

Lesiba is worried about Mmapula, that she had disappeared ever since pre-lunch and static she haven't returned nether home

Maria: You have been starring at that window, I wonder what it had done to a devoted man.

Lesiba: A devoted man *[pause]* is that what you say of me?

Maria: You haven't being yourself lately, what is it that had gone off hand?

Lesiba: Tell me are you drunk or you are just blind to see?

Maria: If I weren't a vicar's consort I would prefer to be drunk, but it is a blind fortune I wedded an authority of no to malt.

Lesiba: You are not taking this matter serious right?

Maria: Which matter need to be taken serious *[pause]* what are you talking about Tata?

Lesiba: it's already Past' 9 and Mmapula is not yet

home, these is not usual, really not normal
[pause] and you are here making funny of me.

Maria: I am not making funny of anyone here; I am just asking my husband to sit down then all will be alright [pause] we both have being children and conceded the stage to be teens ,you know what happens ,fairly everything that happens when you are a teen so be not surprised to see Mmapula acting strange. She will come back just give her time.

Lesiba: Is that what you think?

Maria: Not just what I think [pause] but also what I know. In fact what we both know. Why is it like you haven't being a teen before?

Lesiba: Even if this is about being a teen; you know the consequences of that right? I do not need any mishap on my daughter .

Maria: Let's wait; she is a big girl I know she will be here soon.

Lesiba: Did you say a big girl? *[He stood up and roam around the house]*

Maria: stop moving up and down, can I bring you something to drink? Coffee maybe?

Lesiba: Coffee [pause] Yeah coffee please. *[In the meanwhile Maria prepares a coffee]* I

have told you that Mmapula need to stay with her grandmother at Senwamokgope and you argued against that, take a **moderately** look of what is happening now, Is she here with us since you even said you will monitor her?

Instantaneously when she arrives I will take her to my mom and I need no one's permission.

Maria : Here it is *[she gives Lesiba a coffee and sit next to him]* but you cannot do that ,remember it is just on a middle year, she must gloss her matric afore. I think you just have to sit down and forget about Mmapula, she's 18 and she can look after herself.

Lesiba: You can sit down with your coffee! I'm going to hunt for my daughter! Let's call it a night for if I fail to return, just a night in advance *[He kisses Maria on her forehead]*

Lesiba took his car keys and when he was about to hold a back door knob Maria stopped him from going out.

Maria: stop worrying yourself ,take a deep inhalation and put the car keys on the table, indeed, I hear some sounds outside maybe it is Mmapula *[pause]* let me check that, I have a feeling it might be her.*[she checks*

through window-pale]

Lesiba : Maria you know very well that these place is so very unsafe, too much dangerous more especially to **petite** girls like our daughter.

Maria: Stop losing your nerve.

Lesiba: Ja... it is hard to be a parent.

Maria: *[Laughing]* Oh I never thought of it from my **infancy** that I will end up marrying such a weak man like you.

Lesiba: Weak? No I'm not wea...

Before Lesiba could finish his verdict he was interrupted by gun shots sounds.

'Bang! Bang! Bang!'

Lesiba and Maria both remained on mute for a little while.

Maria: What was that? *[She asked worsening to device her panic]*

Lesiba: A gunshot, I wonder whose child died tonight, it's SO sad.

Maria: Thakgalang had never being a noiseless place for centuries back, it is all about splitting blood of the innocent, and we are living a sad reality Tata.

Lesiba: A sad reality indeed.

Maria: *[she groans]* Hoah! Why don't you just sit down and stop moving up and down like you are a security

guard, that is why I was saying you are weak, remember when you were telling me that a manacles first as tough as its puniest bond when I was pregnant with Mmapula? So be the gent.

Lesiba: Here she starts once more. Oh Mmapula where are you! Did you try calling her?

Maria: After what had just happened, I think it is for the best to check if she is alright where she is.

Lesiba: You know what *[pause]* I can't just sit here home and **despite** the fact that I don't know if my daughter is alright or not, pass me those car keys and go change if you want to go with me; or **linger** if you want to.

Maria: Let's call her before we take part, we must consider all penalties before taking an action darling, especially when you can't retract because I see yourself can't.

Lesiba: Then what are you waiting for? Make it snappy ...

Maria: *[calling Mmapula]* its ringing just relax. *[Pause]*
oh God

Lesiba: What is it?

Maria: It just lead me straight to voicemail, maybe she ran in short of battery.

Lesiba: That does not matter now. Where are those car keys?

Scene 3

Maluri and Mmapula went a long way together and yet became friends, they shared conceals and Maluri attempt to tell Mmapula everything.

Mmapula: So we were still on your father *[pause]* what kind of a man is he?

Maluri: A hero, a provider, a guardian, you know I still hark back the time I got in a crowd of bullies and unexpectedly he was there for me just boom out of nowhere and I felt alive ;you know there I was surely feeling my last breath .but he was there to give me life.

Mmapula: That's so generous of him *[pause]* not everyone can do that, it surely mean wherever you go he is there hiding somewhere waiting for trouble to resolve*[soft laugh]* I guess he is looking at us now.

Maluri: It is not like he follows me; just that it was a lucky day that day. *[Laughing]*

Mmapula: He just can't show up out of the blue *[pause]* he was following you I tell you. I think he needed no mark on you.

Maluri: *[pause]* you think so?

Mmapula: ja ...I am impressed you know. So when you came here, who is there with him right now? Your mother...?

Maluri: *[sad face]* He is no more, all I said about him was in the past.

Mmapula: *[She comforts her]* I am really sorry I shouldn't have asked about him, so where is your mother?

Maluri: Gone as well; both my parents were involved in a car accident 11 months ago. My father was **knocked flawless**, fortune did not favor him, and he left us instantaneously in that crash. My mother was self-proclaimed to an indigenous hospital there in Zimbabwe, but it's sad she couldn't survive the pain although she was courageous, but that one she couldn't bare so she died the 4th day after my father and they left me with nothing to nurse myself and care for my youngsters, no message at all; so that be the foremost reason why I came in South Africa, I want to live for those I left in arrears. Our blood relatives engendered a fence between our **acquaintances**, they call us names, and they do not even care of us. But it confuses me when my mom and dad were still alive, they were

always there for us, I even believed in an unbroken continuity .But life happened.

Mmapula: Oh that's so sad girl...but... why did you decide on coming to south Africa [*shame face*]

Maluri [*she replied pointedly with tears on her cheeks*] it is the domicile that can keep me and my brothers alive and ...

Mmapula: And nothing right... I don't like seeing a teardrop let me have some of your bags

They walked about a distance of 50 meters and arrived at Mmapula's home; as they entered the frontal gate, Lesiba that is Mmapula's father was making his way out using a flatcar. Maluri was starting to have a little bit fear as she knew mostly South Africans don't accept other races in their houses especially Zimbabweans ,

Maluri: [*Hesitating*] **Sister**, thanks for your service and relief but I won't cross the threshold to your home, I am sorry I can't do this.

Mmapula: What is wide of the mark now, you can do it. Its unsympathetic outside let's get in.

Maluri: I am starting to be **anxious**.

Mmapula: Relieve yourself; my parents are sweet and kind. They will be happy to see you though.

Maluri: Not many of the South Africans love us.

Mmapula: What is the meaning of that?

Maluri: I am a Zimbabwean remember, and we are not

treasured here in South Africa.

Mmapula: But you haven't being in South Africa before.

Maluri: My Father stayed his welcome in South Africa until he was accused of killing a schoolgirl and the mob **propagated resentment** against him.

Mmapula: Did he...?

Maluri: I know my father from my infancy, he is not the man they rumored he may perhaps be, just because he was not one of their bloods, they criticize him. He came in South Africa like everyone else who just wanted nothing but to attempt life, he was a perfect architecture; his aim was to share with the world what he is capable of, but he was unwelcomed.

Mmapula: *[she holds her hand]* Hey listen to me *[pause]* You are a human being like us, you were born by a human like us, you have feelings absolutely nothing of you differs from us; just some people have no hearts, they were born from hate and vindictiveness .so relax and feel free, you are at the right place with the right person. Let's get in.

Lesiba: *[clogged his car just before the gate evenhanded to see the girl his daughter is walking with]* Oh my goodness, Mmapula is these how you want to kill me? I was worried about you, and who is that

you are walking with?

Mmapula: She is someone that you need to talk to before you have your way out dad, it won't cost the whole night *[in the meantime ongoing to the frontal door knob]*

Scene 4

Inside the house

Lesiba: Who are you little one?

Mmapula: She is Maluri zafa from Zimbabwe and.... *[Lesiba interrupted her]*

Lesiba: So she can't speak for herself? Are you tone-deaf young girl?

Maluri : No sir, I am Maluri Zafa as your daughter just said, I hail from Zimbabwe sir , I came to South Africa for the reason that I want to live for my youngsters, we lost our parents eleven months ago and I am left as their parent and a sister too, they depend on me now. *[With humbleness]*

Lesiba : So called Maluri or whatever you are, why are u here?

Mmapula: but dad... *[Interrupted]*

Lesiba: But what baby? She is a Zimbabwean, did you hear that?

Mmapula: So what is wrong of her being a Zimbabwean?

Maluri: I am sorry sir but thanks for your hospitality, I did not come to cause conflicts .so it's better I leave.
[She stands up]

Maria which is Mmapula's mother stopped Maluri from going outside

Maria: Relax Luri, feel at home. So what exactly can I do for you? *[She says politely]*

Maluri: I evenhanded need a place to lay my head low mam, I am in needy but it seems like I will be an encumbrance here home, I can excuse you.

Maria : Oh what will turn out to be of me if I don't help these girl, maybe you are a god sent, you can share a room with Mmapula for until the time you return back home, it costs less.

Lesiba: Did you say it costs less ...?

Maria: Why are you such a cold- blooded man?

Lesiba : No it's not like that ,just I didn't pick up you well, indeed Mmapula can you show your friend where she'll sleep ?For tonight.

Mmapula: These way ...

Mmapula took Maluri's stuff to her room

Lesiba: Maria do you trust the girl, did you even see her eyes? She is bloodcurdling

Maria : *[while walking]* as if yourself you are well made

of,... foul ...

Lesiba: Did you just say foul?

Maria: No sweetheart I was just coughing that's it, can I ask you something?

Lesiba : If it does not concern how I look, then my ears are wide open *[with smile]*

Maria: oh you got me there but these is not what it is; why did you look at the lady' s behinds?

Lesiba: Did you prepare the bed..? If not I'll prepare it myself isn't that I got hands? *[With an acute voice]*

Lesiba stood without answering the question and went to the bedroom

Maria: So what about...hey...Come back here *[Laughing]*

Scene 5

[The following day]

Maluri woke up before everyone else and just found herself sitting alone next to frontal door questioning herself on how she will start the impossible mission. When Lesiba wakes up he found Maluri sitting alone holding her nest in a heartbreaking way that seemed thus she is bothered by a certain thing;

Lesiba: Morning Luri, you seem to be bored, would you like a ride? You have a right to be learning few things about these rustic area of Tk, stand-up I

want to take you somewhere.

Maluri: I don't want to be there

Lesiba: Where?

Maluri: Somewhere...

Lesiba: Do not make me beg, you don't want to see my tears right? Do you?

Maluri: Why don't you take your wife somewhere sir, myself where I want to be is somewhere very far that I don't even know where.

Lesiba: What is the meaning of that? Don't be hard on it.

Maluri: These is not where I am supposed to be now, I don't want to be here I am not welcomed

Lesiba: But that is not true

Maluri: Then what it is sir? Early you were trying to chase me out of your house that you eventually failed to do, you never gave me a good look like of a parent, then what is left now for you to do so that you see me out of your house? Chase my soul from my body? My mother would turn from the graves [*shouting*]

Lesiba: Take it easy Luri, these is not what you thought it was, I was drunk I guess.

Maluri: drunk! Your daughter told me you are a priest, do you even read your bible? Do you know these verse "accept the visitors for they brought

blessings” clearly after what happened last night shows me you don’t, get off my way *(Lesiba held her from going)*

Lesiba : But luri... forgive me for I bad behaved, you look like a sweet girl you know, you shouldn’t be like this.

Maria got out of the house after hearing so much noise outside

Maria: What’s with so much noise?

.”Lesiba got inside the car and started it...Bruuum... (Car engine)”

Lesiba : Nothing sweetheart , I was just telling the young lady she can’t go to town so dirty like that, but then it’s not a problem you can come, hey prettiness, aren’t we going?

Maluri: No I can’t go there as dirty as you said.

Maria: ooh that is not a problem Luri, just get in the car and have your ride *(with smile)*

Maluri: But mam ...

Maria: Shhh... Just get in

Maluri got in a car but cutting-edge devoid of a knowledge of where is she going, inside the car they heard a conversation

Lesiba: Why did you wear such an old fashioned cloth?

Maluri: Did you offer me this canter so you can be checking how I wore?

Lesiba: Take me as your father, I should know if what you wore makes you happy, especially when you are still young like these.

Maluri: My mother left me these dress and I want to hold a promise that I will take care of it.

Lesiba: Can I buy you something and you promise me too that you will keep it?

Maluri : No ,just give me a job that I will promise I will forever keep it

Lesiba : *[laughing]* You are still young and you can't work at my farm ,there I need real women .

Maluri: before my mother dies, she taught me how to be a woman and yet I do not feel less of that .

Lesiba: Did you say you are a woman?

Maluri: Yes sir I am.

Lesiba: Can you demonstrate it to me that you are a woman? Young woman.

Maluri: what are you talking about?

Lesiba : Do not give it attention, I was just asking, why don't you just go to school and further your studies so that from there you can be taking care of those you left behind, I mean the little ones you told me about yesterday. You were not supposed to be here.

Maluri : Going to school does not work for me sir, I need a

fast money day and day out

Lesiba : Day and day out..?

Maluri : Yes sir, my brother was admitted to the hospital before I come, his medication costs much than I could be delaying myself at school, I don't want him to die, that will prove me as irresponsible sister and a parent to my siblings indeed.

Lesiba: Did you just say ... a parent..?

Maluri: Yes sir, isn't it that now I am the one who is responsible for their lives?

Lesiba: I will give you work but you have to promise that you will save the clothes that I will buy you

Maluri: Sir are we not arriving yet?

Lesiba: Don't call me sir, I am Lesiba but then we arrived, just last robot left

They arrived at a town named Soekmekaar where they entered a big shop of Ackermans

Maluri was amused and surprised by anything she sees in the shop as it were her first entering a big shop

Maluri: wow... I never be in such place like these before

Lesiba: Do you like it?

Maluri: Why not, look at that dress, so long and open

Lesiba : Take it I will face the bill

Maluri : Oh that is so kind of you papa, I will pay you back once I get work, how much does it costs?

Lesiba: Relax, I just buy it for you, you don't have to pay me back, I am your papa right?

Maluri : That's it my father in advance

Lesiba: *(laughing)* Oh definitely ,and you almost look like me, just almost, who knows maybe you are my daughter

Maluri: don't make fun of that, you never visited Zimbabwe I guess ,so how could I be your daughter?

Lesiba: I am a business man my girl, I travel almost the whole world

Maluri: Have you ever been in Zimbabwe?

Lesiba: *(Laughing)* maybe I was born there *[he said in Shona tongue]*

Maluri: oh you can even talk Shona? I am impressed.

Lesiba: Maybe than you; let me pay for your dress so we can grab something to eat.

Lesiba paid for Maluri's dress and from there they went to have their breakfast at KFC

Lesiba: Have you ever been in restaurants like these before?

Mallari: It is there in Zimbabwe but myself I never went there because it is for the ones who are rich, to me getting inside was just a dream

Lesiba: Waiter Please!

Maluri: What do you mean?

Lesiba: Nothing, just calling a waiter
Maluri: It's getting late, I want to be marketing sir
Lesiba: Do you really have to?
Maluri: Yes sir, remember time wasted never regain
Lesiba: You just told me your mother taught you how to be a woman right?
Maluri: Yes sir and what makes you remind me of that?
Lesiba: Can you do me a favor?
Maluri: Anything
Lesiba : stop calling me papa for now ;well I think there is a fortunate space for a woman at my garden
Maluri: Just tell me what is the meaning of that
Lesiba : You'll be one of my labors, you are employed
Maluri : Oh papa what on earth did I see before you, you made my day though ;*[she hugs him]*

They had their breakfast and had their way home too

[Inside the car]

Lesiba: Do you know how to drive?
Maluri: Do you mean to drive like driving a car?
Lesiba: Yes, driving a car.
Maluri: No I don't, I think I am tired, wake me when we arrived *(she fell asleep)*

Scene 6

LESIBA'S HOUSE

Mmapula just woke up and found her mother doing laundry outside

Mmapula: Good morning mommy

Maria: You are not even ashamed Mmapula; huh.

Mmapula: Ashamed of what mom?

Maria: Is these the time to wake?

Mmapula: What time is it?

Maria: Stop asking me about the time and grab something to do.

Mmapula: I am so tired mom, not today

Maria: Oh is that so? [*Folding her arms*]

Mmapula: Hauw...I am just kidding, where is the broom?

Maria: I do not know, isn't that yesterday you were the last person to hold it. Go check in the bathroom it might be there.

Mmapula: [*she went to the bathroom*] Got it, and where is Maluri? Where is dad? Where is everyone?

Maria: On a ride, I think your father regrets how he acted yesterday and decide to take Luri to town as an admission of guilt to her. Anyway, let's graft before I get late to work.

Mmapula: Oh I forgot today is Monday. I do not feel well today

Maria: What's wrong my child?

Mmapula: I find my body so heavy I do not know why.

Maria: Does that mean you won't work?

Mmapula: That is not a thing to worry about, I do not think I

will make it to school today.

Maria: It is not a problem I will call Miss Rampedi and alert her on how you feel.

Mmapula: Thank you mom, you are the finest.

Maria: You can leave the besom there, I will take care of everything I guess you need to rest perhaps you will be recovering.

Mmapula: Okay mom, let's call it a day.

Maria: Okay...Oh and tell your father when he returns to take you to the clinic, you might be facing a serious disorder, one can tell but you will be fine young one ; always a drowning man will clutch at a straw.

Mmapula: Uhm ...no there is no use, I will be fine mom.

Maria: If you say so *(she continues sweeping)*

Scene 7

Inside the car

Lesiba did not focus on the road anymore but also on Maluri's behinds until his reach home

Lesiba: Luri! Hey pretty wake up! Luri

Maluri: I am up, why with so greatly sound papa? Are we arrived yet?

Lesiba: Stop being interrogative and go have the gate.

Maluri: Okay papa.

Lesiba: You are delaying me Luri I have so many policies in the present day.

Maluri: Okay calm down papa, I will have it.

Lesiba asked Maluri to open a gate so he could see her behinds thoroughly, on the mean while she opens a gate he was taking pics of her

Lesiba: Thanks luri, you have accomplished such a great job indeed, what about I employ you as my everyday gate-keeper? You are indeed good on it.

Maluri: Anything papa.

Lesiba: I am just light hearted hey, what are your plans currently?

Maluri: I think I am worn-out, I had a very long day so I need a nap papa. Do you need me to do something for you papa?

Lesiba: Not at all, I just wanted you to come and freeze with me here thus I would be telling you fairy stories, about the reality of the world. Do you like fairy stories?

Maluri: My mother hand-me-down and recited them to me when she was still alive, and I really had delight in them but no longer after she left me. The day she died was the day I died passionately. I miss my mom; but adversity and

loss make a woman wise.

Lesiba: I am so sorry for your loss.

Maluri: It is not a problem sir. Can I go now?

Lesiba: Can you come sit here with me for a little while? Do not be afraid at these time it is just you and I at home, Mmapula's mother is at work, and the little Mmapula went to school. Do you know what the meaning of that is? It means I cannot be bored while I have you here with me. Come sit here, you won't regret.

Maluri: I really can't papa, when I was growing up my mother advised me not to sit next to my father, it does not show respect in our culture.

Lesiba: Am I your father, are you in Zimbabwe now?

Maluri: No papa but I...*[Lesiba interrupted her]*

Lesiba: You know Zimbabwe is a country of no peace for many centuries back, I do not blame you for that, here in South Africa we only talk Freedom .so this is your chance to enjoy every day as if it were your last.

Maluri: okay papa and it really feels different being in South Africa though, can I go now?

Lesiba: It is not a problem but I thought you wanted to discuss with me about the job I am offering you. You know I cannot just give you work without

giving you rules on how to work with me and other people that you will be working with, unless you do not want it ,you know Howsoever big a task is, it starts with a small step...And these is the first step Luri.

Maluri: Thanks a lot for the job but I really can't sit there with you papa, I am not even comfortable to talk with you right now, please papa I need to go *[she goes to the house]*

Lesiba: Hey Luri, wait a minute .Besides the matter of a job there is something else I needed us to talk about.

Maluri: Uhm...what is it papa? I am starting to be nervous.

Lesiba: Do not be afraid, I want us to talk on how we can help your little siblings, I had thought of it, so come here you cannot talk with your elder whilst standing, in our culture it does not show respect.

Maluri: Okay *[she sat a bit far from Lesiba]*

Lesiba: Do not be afraid, you can come close. *[She went a bit close]* Wow I never thought of you being beautiful like these, from the fairest creatures; you are beautiful.

Maluri: My mother used to tell me that every morning I wake as well as every night before sleeping, can

we talk about what you wanted to talk to me about?...papa...I am drowsy.

Lesiba: No I just wanted you to thank me for the job, I want to see how grateful you are.

Maluri: *[she kneels in front of him]* papa I really need these job, you really engaged in recreation a big part to save my life ,so thank you, thank you once more .And I pray to Him the avenging one to be with you all the time, may he bless you for your kindness.

Lesiba: Oh that was sweet; so sweet from the sweetest employee. I hear you Luri and now I can also see that you really need it but do you think that was enough to thank me? No it is not.

Maluri: I beg of you papa, just understand how these job will change my life; and not only my life but my siblings'. Please papa.

Lesiba Grabbed Maluri's head and forced kissed her out of the blue and Mmapula was watching them through a window pale and she saw everything

Maluri: What are you doing papa?

Lesiba: It was a mistake and let it be between us.

Maluri stood up and run off the gate without knowing where she goes, she just wanted to add herself up after what happened

Scene 8

At Maria's work

Rabeka: My friend you are always loaded by further people's matters.

Mosutwa: It's not like that, just I am lucky to see.

Rabeka : And when you saw you do what?

Mosutwa: I come share with my friend. You know what happened today will never be forgotten. Not in my mind and not in my eyes

Rabeka: My friend you are lying!

Mosutwa: Lesiba and that foreign person?

Rabeka: Yes! Yes friend! Come with it. You know I still can't believe that it happened.

Mosutwa: I saw them with my two eyes, that car passed me before Mmabatho's tuck shop.

Rabeka: You should have called me when you were going, I wanted to see it with my two eyes too.

Mosutwa: Lesiba will never change I tell you.

Rabeka: Remember when he and Maria fought because of that girl next to you.

Mosutwa: Which girl next to me?

Rabeka: That tall one, what do you call her?

Mosutwa: Is there a girl that is tall neighboring me?

Rabeka: I will recall her name I will tell you.

Musutwa: Oh here she is, you mean Lebogang? Letsoalo's nephew?

Rabeka: Absolutely, do you remember that there was a rumor that she was pregnant?

Musutwa: Yes I remember that, the time when they said she was raped so they did not know who was the father?

Rabeka: Absolutely! I already knew the father.

Mosutwa: You are kidding.

Rabeka: Ask me I will tell you.

Mosutwa: Come with it friend.

Rabeka: Lesiba was the father.

Mosutwa: Tell me that you are kidding friend, I have heard of it but not it all.

Rabeka: Wait for it to come, I was seeing them almost every weekend.

Mosutwa: And you decided not to tell me?

Rabeka: I thought you already knew of it; did you even know that they were sleeping at Ratsaka's shack? [*Laughing*]

Mosutwa: Ratsaka our friend?

Rabeka: The one and only, when he was drunk he would tell me anything. [*Laughing*] it seems like they were renting there, Lesiba and his teen fiancé

Scene 9

At Lesiba's house

Mmapula: morning daddy

Lesiba: *(Surprised)* so you haven't gone to school, why are you here home?

Mmapula: I haven't being myself lately dad.

Lesiba: *"Haven't being myself"* my foot, I know you young girls have monkey tricks.

Mmapula: Oh so you want to have confidence in that I haven't being myself lately when I am dead?

Lesiba: Whatever, how did you sleep?

Mmapula :Normal , I heard you went to town these morning

Lesiba : yeah but that was urgent, I know you always wanted to go town with me Nunu ,I am sorry

Mmapula : But you went there with Maluri, is she the urgency that you are talking about ?

Lesiba: But...

Mmapula: But what dad, you just chose her over me, you don't even want to know how I feel about it.

Lesiba: But nunu...

Mmapula: But what while these is what you are doing, Last it was Lebogang the one you said to me *"she just wanted a lift"*, today is Maluri, when will it be me?

Lesiba: What exactly do you want from town, I will bring it in no time?

Mmapula: Nothing, am I even your descendant?

Lesiba: how come you think...?

Mmapula: how come I think what, you know what, just enjoy making someone's child happy while yours is not, maybe you two are dating plus I saw you kissing her. In front of me, in front of me dad? In front of your daughter.

Lesiba slapped Mmapula

Lesiba: Don't put words on my mouth you little spoiled brat.

Mmapula: I think mom will have to know about these

Lesiba : Don't dare me. Remember I am not your friend I will beat you.

Mmapula: with all due respect dad, since from when you turned to these monster?

Lesiba: *[He stood up and went to the house]* If you think I am a monster find yourself a place to stay. You cannot stay with a monster in its house, indeed there is always fair in love and war.

Scene 10

When Maluri was on her way to a shop she came across a boy named Sello, since she was stressed and over thinking she did not consider the way in addition sello was busy with his cellphone while walking and they both collide, besides Maluri's ice cream fell.

Sello: Ouch! I am sorry hey, I will buy you a new one, how much it is?

Maluri: Do not worry about it, I didn't even enjoy it.

Sello: No, come with me you will get a new one, I just smashed your ice cream and now I have to get away with it? Do not make me a bad person.

Maluri: Okay let's make it easy, you will buy it some other day not today.

Sello: At least tell me your name so I can remember whom do me owe an Ice cream.

Maluri: Call me Maluri.

Sello: I love the sound of your name Maluri, anyway from Teekay meet Ramothopa Sello, I am a Kasi boy. Anyone knows me here.

Maluri: Okay Kasi boy now it's my time to go home.

Sello: Meet me here tomorrow, for your Ice cream.

Maluri: Okay.

Scene 11

At Maria's work

Sarah: I was listening to them today talking about the girl that visited at your house.

Maria : What about her?

Sarah: Maybe we shouldn't be talking about it.

Maria: why not, I am supposed to know, isn't it that the girl they were talking about stay at my house, the same man they were talking about is my husband. So I do have a right to know what they were talking about.

Sarah: Okay they said your husband sleeps with that girl and they ensure that they saw them this morning .

Maria : Is that so?

Sarah: I was just listening and didn't like the way they talked of you. So I decided to let you know of it.

Maria: Thanks Sarah, however today won't set before I deal with one of those mockers.

Sarah: Please do not say you heard it from me.

Maria: I am not a child.

Sarah: Please do not make me regret this.

Maria: Regret what? Telling me the truth?

Sarah: I was just trying to help.

Maria: And I appreciate that *[pause]* do not worry yourself I won't do anything stupid.

Sarah: Okay let's have lunch, what do you have today?
[Smiling]

Maria: Mmapula did not cook today so I had to pass by Mafa's bakery and pick something, then yourself?

Sarah: I don't even want to say.

Maria: Let me see *[she opens Sarah's bag]* Oh my favorite meal. You can make a good friend you know.

While Sarah and Maria were eating, Musutwa and Rabeka showed up but they were by passing

Rabeka: Hello colleagues

Sarah: *[whispered to Maria]* don't mind them.

Mosutwa: I heard of your husband married a Zimbabwean.

Sarah could not hold it and found herself on Mosutwa

Scene 12

Lesiba got inside the house and went to where Maluri sleeps, Maria was not around

Lesiba: knock-knock

Maluri: who is that?

Lesiba: it's me, open we need to talk

Maluri: *[she opened]* what brings you here papa?

Lesiba: Can I get in? For a minute please.

Maluri: No you can't unless you tell me what brings you here.

Lesiba: I am sorry, it's nothing that brings me here just that I am mixed up, forget it. *[He leaves]*

Maluri: before you leave, what should I forget?

Lesiba: Uhm Luri *[pause]* I am sorry for what happened.

Maluri: Leave now! Leave! Leave!

Lesiba: Easy, I will leave...

Scene 13

In three weeks' time Maluri started working at Lesiba's farm and there she met a boy

Thabo: Hey girl are you new here?

Maluri: Ja I am, though call me Maluri Zafa

Thabo: Thabo Mokoka from Bakenberg and you are from?

Maluri: I am from...you don't need to know Thabo.

Thabo: No be open with me, from?

Maluri: Zimbabwe then.

Thabo: Are you ashamed of where you are coming from?

Maluri : It is not that way, just that I know most of south Africans don't want themselves next to us the Zimbabweans

Thabo : You are beautiful

Maluri : You don't mean that right ?

Thabo: No I do, you know I never thought of you as but, I think you are perfect for me Luri.

Maluri: Oh...I think...

Lesiba came and commanded them to work

Lesiba: Hey you two, these is not a dating club, find yourselves something to do before I take your positions

Thabo: Heard sir.

Lesiba: Maluri! Luri! Maluri, hey...

Maluri: Sorry sir...

Lesiba: Why are you smiling as if you just realized where your grandma hided the rhombus

Maluri: I am not smiling sir.

Lesiba: Was that clear?

Maluri: what is it that was clear sir?

Lesiba: Oh God what have I done, just get to your positions and work, no more unnecessary discussions

Thabo: Luri, meet me half six late

Lesiba called Thabo aside and warned him

Lesiba: Is she your girlfriend?

Thabo : who?

Lesiba: Don't act like a dumb, you know who I am talking about. Is she your girlfriend?

Thabo : Oh you mean Luri, she is just a friend of mine sir

Lesiba : you better keep it as a friendship because if you mess up with her heart, then you messed up with me

Thabo : what is the meaning of these sir, you get me scared

Lesiba : what is in my Land belongs to me.

Thabo: can I get back to work before you take my position

Lesiba : Did I make myself clear? (Thabo left Lesiba without responding to his question) You street kid.

Scene 14

After work

Maluri was walking slowly expecting Thabo to join her however Lesiba showed up first and found it as another chance to be with Maluri.

Lesiba: *[he stops his car]* hey, get in, it's not safe outside

Maluri: Thank you papa but I will walk.

Lesiba: You are not serious, we are going to the same place.

Maluri: I know, but I am solemn papa I will walk

Thabo showed up

Lesiba: Oh now I see...

Thabo: Afternoon sir, Hey Luri don't forget [He whispers to Maluri's ear and walked through]

Maluri: Wait, I've been waiting for you here [she follows Thabo]

Lesiba: Damn it! These farm boy!

Scene 15

Thabo and Maluri

Thabo: I never thought it could be these early.

Maluri: When comes to my friend I never hesitate

Thabo: Did you just say a friend?

Maluri: As if you were not listening to me.

Thabo: Well how was your day at work?

Maluri: I only enjoyed that 30 minutes with you before Mr. Pheeha arrived, he seemed to be jealous

Thabo: Mr. Pheeha right ...?

Maluri: Yes him, why is it like you are not happy?

Thabo: Do I look like that? *[With a sworn face]*

Maluri: Yes, you are not even smiling like earlier on, do you only smile when you are at work?

Thabo: Where do you live?

Maluri: What is the meaning of that? I just told you I am from Zimbabwe.

Thabo: That one I get it but where do you live here in Thakgalang?

Maluri: At Mr. Pheeha's crib, why do you ask such a useless question?

Thabo: Are you in Mr. Pheeha? Like are you guys having an outside affair; in love I guess.

Maluri: Come on Thabo, say you didn't ask that.

Thabo: yes I did Luri, The time he called me aside he did caution me of you, so much threatening he said, even that if I make you my girlfriend I will become pang of conscience, just my mind is mixed up now.

Maluri: Did he say that?

Thabo: How come I say things that were never said?

Maluri : I am sorry about that, let me go home, maybe these is not the right time for us to meet [*Maluri stood up wild and first then Thabo stances last and hold Maluri's hands*]

Thabo: Did I say anything wrong?

Maluri: Not at all, hey let us meet tomorrow.

She ran home instantaneously headed to confront Lesiba

Thabo: Hey! We haven't done anything with our meet up!
Oh whatever, let's call it a day

Scene 16

At Lesiba's house

Lesiba: Who is dead now, why are you running like these prettiness?

Maluri: Don't you dare call me of that name again,
anyway I thought you were my papa; what did you say to Thabo? *[Shouting]*

Lesiba: I was just helping young one.

Maluri: Helping? Sir I don't need your help, all I am trying to find is happiness but you are standing on my way, please sir, I respected you as my father, so please act like that!

Lesiba: That's exactly what I was doing Luri! Protecting my daughter from bad boys, act as my daughter too and accept me helping you!

Maluri: Uhm, you said to him I am yours, papa please these is not the reason why I am in South Africa, Nor maybe I just have to find another place to stay

Lesiba : Suit yourself, take a sit and have a drink with me /

he poured a glass of juice to maluri] here, its tasty indeed

Maluri : If you could offer me peace and stop tailing me I will appreciate that !unless you want your wife to know of these ,your choice.

Lesiba: How is your brother doing? Maybe you could get an increase for the sake of those you left behind they need clothes so they can look like other kids, they need toys to keep them indoors to avoid unnecessarily movement , they need more food on the table, remember all of these surrounds you, whether you tell me you want an increase or you tell my wife of our affair ,your choice

Maluri : which affair are you talking about ,I am lost?

Lesiba: Get back to your horses prettiness, you know you said to me, you are a woman and you don't feel less of that *[he stood and get into the house]* oh before I forget, there is a present that I left beneath your be

Maluri ran to the house to see the present that Lesiba is talking about and there she found a plastic with miniskirt inside

Maluri: For God's sake, I am going to throw these away *[she speaks alone and lesiba heard her]*

Lesiba: Nothing will be thrown away, that will suit you prettiness.

Maluri : I remember when I was just 13 years old my mother showed me these kind of a clothes and said to me I should not put it on.

Lesiba :Why not ,maybe she knew you'll look beautiful than I see you now ,put it on

Maluri: No she said if I put these on I will be applying a way to death, I am sorry sir I can't accept your gift, maybe is better you keep it for Mmapula, rather than giving it to me because I will throw it away

Lesiba's phone rang

Lesiba: excuse me, I have to take these

On phone

Lesiba: Bra Cobra

Cobra: What time?

Lesiba: There is no time like the present [*Laughing*] it's ours

Cobra: [*Laughing*] it's ours, but what about my money.

Lesiba: I will come to your place.

Cobra: That's what I am talking about [*laughing*]

Scene 17

Lesiba left the house to fetch Mmapula at school

Mmapula: Jey daddy I thought you wouldn't come.
Lesiba: Why would you think that way, I don't want you to get killed.
Mmapula: Get over it, mom said you should pass by her working place today they will be knocking out early.
Lesiba: let's make it a turn now (he turned to right hand of her wife's working place) so how was school
Mmapula: It was better and how was work?
Lesiba: A bit longer though I just want to get a nap.
Mmapula: Oh is Maluri giving you hard time?
Lesiba: Are you forgetting that I am not your friend?
Mmapula: *[kept quite]*

They arrived at Maria's working place

Maria: Good day everyone.

They both responded 'hey'

Lesiba : Can you be driving us I am so tired.
Maria: So myself I am not exhausted?
Lesiba: Get over it, I will drive.
Maria: Why did you leave Luri behind?
Lesiba: she just wanted to be home, remember she is still new here she need to be getting to it bit by bit

Maria: Is she doing well at the farm? I just heard of those people that they forsake laziness

Lesiba: I stand with that too, she had been the most energetic worker in the farm.

ACT 2

SCENE 1

They arrived and found maluri was not there

Mmapula : Luri ...Luri...Luri... is there anyone at home?

Lesiba: I guess she went to see her boyfriend

Maria: her boyfriend?

Mmapula: her boyfriend?

Lesiba: you don't know what a boyfriend is?

Mapula: God forbid. Something to eat?

Maria: Pap and stew

Lesiba: Bread and juce

Lesiba received a text message from cobra

"Excellent work done, Address, Thakgalang no.1 stand 737"

Maria: You are smiling, who was that?

Lesiba: Oh it was no one.

Maria: So you received a message from no one? That's highly impossible

Lesiba: uhm....

Mmapula brought food

Mmapula: Food on the table

Lesiba : hope for the most of what I like

Mmapula: [Laughing] For my dad I will never mess things

Maria: Our future chef

Scene 2

It is eight o'clock late now Maluri is not yet returned

Maria: who is having a clue on where she could be?

Lesiba : Myself I don't know and I don't care

Mmapula : dad ,how come you say that

Lesiba: she is not my child so why should I care

Mmapula : You are such a...

Maria: Enough! What if where she is she need our help

Lesiba: who knows, maybe she don't.

Mmapula : Dad you are heartless

Lesiba : pass me that phone of mine there nunu ,my bed is tired of calling me

Maria : so you only care of that you want to sleep, I saw it from the first day that you don't like these girl, nunu bring me your father's car keys I will go with you.

Lesiba: Not my car keys, the car has to rest too, it has been a long day for it

Maria: oh besides, you said she went to her boyfriend, who is he?

Lesiba: No Maria, why should I know?

Maria: we have to help the poor soul.

Lesiba: darling, Luri is a grown up girl she knows what is better and what is not for her, want to join me and stop stressing yourself?

Maria: you like forcing the impossible things, anyway yes
give me a side.

Passed three days and Maluri did not return

Scene 3

In the morning

Maria: Lesiba wake up! Wake up!

Lesiba: okay

Maria: but you are still asleep wake up we need to talk.

Lesiba: okay

She poured him with water and shouted "WAKE!"

Lesiba: Okay Maria! These is enough, what is it? [With heavy voice]

Maria: What is it? Like really Lesiba, what is it?
Someone's child is missing and it has been three days now but we don't act, in fact you don't act.

Lesiba: Hey look at me, look here [*he holds her head*] If that child of someone doesn't want to be here why should we force her? Baby let's not let that get between us Maluri is a big girl, let's go back to sleep.

Maria: Its Three days now, Three days Lesiba! [*Crying*]

Lesiba: Stop crying she will return if she wanted to.

Maria: I know why you don't care, I am not surprised
[crying]

Lesiba: Oh let's not get there, I am not ready for these.

Maria: The fact is you were never in the situation like these, you were never a mother before, you do not know how we feel when something like these happens, just....

Lesiba: Shhhh... [*He kissed her on the forehead and hugged her*]

Lesiba's phone rang

Lesiba: I want to use toilet

Maria: your phone is ringing

Lesiba: it's just an alarm

Lesiba went to the lavatory and answered his phone

On phone

Lesiba: Bad timing cobra I am with my wife

Cobra: I call whenever I want, I need my money

Lesiba: Look cobra Money is not a problem ,The problem is that package of mine there

Cobra: My Money , and Our package, [he hanged off]

Lesiba: hello! Hello! Still there? Oh what am I doing?

Maria: You've been there for a long time.

Lesiba: Coming!

Lesiba went back to the room

Lesiba: So what now?

Maria: What?

Lesiba: Where are you going, I mean today is weekend I can't say you are going to work

Maria: Yes I am not going to work.

Lesiba: where are you off to?

Maria: pass me those car keys, I am going to report maluri's missing at the police station.

Lesiba: Oh is that even necessary? I mean, we can search for her ourselves without involving police, let me change too and start searching

Maria: Oh since from when you cared about a child that is not yours?

Lesiba: I am not ready for that, I thought it carefully and silently ,so I also felt pain, your pain indeed

Maria: it's nice to hear that, so you will drive me to the police station right?

Lesiba: Don't you think we are rushing things? It's too early to inform the police, in fact the law says we must wait 48 hours before we report an issue as

of that.

Maria: Still you don't get the fact that it has being three days now?

Lesiba: No babe it's not like that, I know you are stressed and I am too but let's be slow on these , trust me we will find her.

Maria: If you say so, Grab the car keys and try to look around thakgalang, I will go with you

Scene 4

Maria and Lesiba went to search for Maluri

Mmapula: Mom? Dad? Is anyone home?

Her phone rang

On phone

Mmapula: Hello

Thabo: Hey its Thabo here, is Maluri at home?

Mmapula: Do I know you?

Thabo: oh I am sorry. I am her boyfriend

Mmapula: her boyfriend? Oh she is not here, we as well thought she was with her boyfriend.

Thabo: I was trying to call her but her cellphone was off since yesterday, just tell her to call me when she returns today.

Mmapula: Oh I am sorry Thabo, she haven't been at home for three days now *[she hanged up]*

Scene 5

At Thabo's home

Thabo: Dad...

kacheru: What went wrong my son? You look so sad.

Thabo: She is not here.

Kacheru: who is not here?

Thabo: Maluri...Maluri Zafa...My girlfriend ...! Dad she's not here...What if...! *[Roaming around]*

Kacheru: *[he stood up and comfort Thabo]* Relax son, be a man, tell me what is happening.

Thabo: About what dad? She is no more, Maluri knows nothing about Thakgalang, so now she is gone for three days! Where could she be?

Kacheru: Sit down *[he sits him down]* so tell me, who is Maluri that you are talking about?

Thabo: She is a girl from Zimbabwe and...I don't think these is the right time for that. Let's go to the police, they can help.

Kacheru: I don't think so. That is behind our concern son we just have to lay back and see what her family does. She have a family right? I mean we do not even know her.

Thabo: Dad I know her!
Kacheru: Cut it... I am off to bath

Scene 6

Lesiba and Maria inside the car

Maria: Turn Left.
Lesiba: Don't get us lost.
Maria: Do you have Maluri's Picture?
Lesiba: I don't have, Indeed why should I have it.
Maria: I was just asking Tata let's not take it far.
Lesiba: Mmapula must be having them, call her.
Maria: You thought it in an easy way, Let me not waste time

[She called Mmapula and asked for Maluri's pic and Mmapula sent the pic]

'Phone alert'

Lesiba: was that your phone?
Maria: I guess it is Mmapula's message, let me check my Facebook.
Lesiba: Let's turn left, I think it will take us where we want to be
Maria: That's it!
Lesiba: what is it?
Maria: Nothing, just now at least we have a lead.

Lesiba: What lead?
Maria: Oh Mmapula sent the picture.
Lesiba: That is better.
Maria: stop before that spaza shop
Lesiba: got it.

Lesiba stoped before the shop and Maria stepped off the car then went inside the shop

Maria: Good morning guys, Haven't you seen these person *[she shows them a pic]*
Person 1: No mam we don't even know her.
Person 2: Yes, we don't but let me see the pic thoroughly
Person 3: No guys, isn't Thabo's girlfriend?
Person 1: Mam the truth is we don't know her.
Maria: Oh, okay thanks for your time

[Maria returned back in the car]

Lesiba: found something?
Maria: Not at all, but they seemed to know her
Lesiba: Told you these was just a waste of time Maria; so why didn't they tell you?
Maria: Who knows, maybe they got their hands in Maluri's dismissal.
Lesiba: Stop accusing everyone, you don't have the prove of that.
Maria: Whatever, hit the boulevard?

Scene 7

[At cobra's house]

Cobra: these man is playing games with me, he definitely does not know whom he is dealing with *[Roaming around the house]* they call me the forest of a sea serpent.

Mpho: Pass me that joint, it is smoked by air now

Cobra: I was thinking.

Mpho: You are always thinking, who has to die tonight?

Cobra: No one has to die, but one must cry.

Mpho: sounds so serious, what are you up to? Well whatever it is make sure it does not get us into trouble.

Cobra: hey! I breastfeed you here! You are starting to be full of yourself.

Mpho: No sir, just I was *[cellphone rings]* saying we must be safe .

Cobra: are you panicking?

Mpho: surely no, a big no, no sir why should I?

Cobra: Your ringtone is starting to annoy the flow of my blood

Mpho: Oh sorry I did not hear it...

On phone

Mpho: Mpho Serumula Hello

Katlego: Now you are answering like a business man, are you good there?

Mpho: Oh Goodman! "It's Goodman" *[saying to Cobra]*

Katlego: Only me, are you good?

Mpho: Life is adding up, and your side?

Katlego: Likewise, I was thinking of checking up there, do we have a job? You know there is no money now.

Mpho: Ah it's a blind fortune; no job Goodman

"Tell him we have a gig tonight" says cobra

Katlego: Ouch, where is Golovan? He might have something for me.

Mpho: Something for you as always, we have a gig.

Katlego: Excellent! Excellent! What the day? I want to be playing nine lives.

Mpho: Goodman

Katlego: Only Goodman can.

Mpho: Alright Goodman, get ready, the gig is tonight.

Katlego: On my waist...Excellent once again! Excellent
!excellent!

Mpho: Don't get too excited Goodman, You will end up dying there and we need you here.

Katlego: Only a Goodman can live forever *[he hangs up]*

Cobra and Mpho

Mpho: I am confused.

Cobra: close it behind you *(he points the door)*

Mpho: Am I kicked out now?

Cobra: No, just giving you time to prepare.

Mpho: Black poison, the killing One, the forest of a sea serpent... Golovan *(Praises)*

Cobra: That does not impress me, certainly it makes me blunder piercing body fluid, so leave before I isolate you with rain.

Mpho: Golovan !Golovan! I do as you say Golovan! *[He went off]*

Cobra : Sometimes you can call yourself a clever, whilst you do not see the reality of you. You are being exposed tonight young man, no one fools Golovan and stay free, not when the Golovan Ancestor still lives within me[He laughs] .And yourself you are remaining behind tonight, these need man to man, bull to bull!*[he talks to his gun]* where is my phone? Oh there it is *[he calls Lesiba]*

[On call]

Cobra: Enjoy the warmth while preparing for cold, you know winter is sometimes strict *(he laughs and*

hang up)

Lesiba: Hello! Hello! Hello! Are you there? Hello
Maria: Who's that?
Lesiba: We better go home mommy, it's getting late.
Maria: I just asked, who was that?
Lesiba: Do not worry about it.
Maria: Why shouldn't I....
Lesiba: Shouldn't you what? Do you want to be a man?
Do you want to know what man are talking
about? Do you? Huh? *[Shouting at her]*
Maria: get me off, I will walk home.
Lesiba: Baby I am...I am sorry, I did not mean it that way.
Maria: I said get me off before unless you want me to
jump out.

Scene 8

At Lesiba's house

Lesiba: Darling I am sorry for I bad behaved and,
uhm...we....
Maria: We what?
Lesiba: Need to talk, Ja we need to talk please do not get
angry, just...me...I was ...
Maria: Was what, say what you want to say and stop
being unarticulated.

"Knock-knock"

Maria: Let me get the door.

Lesiba: I will get it, it's not safe for you *[before he couldn't finish she went to get the door]* hey stay put, hey...

[Sound from the sitting room]

"Luri- Luri...Oh Dear God she is back"

[Lesiba calls Cobra on Maria's absence]

Lesiba: What do you think you are doing?

Cobra: Be careful, you are still talking to the black poison.

Lesiba: What did you do, what happened?

Cobra: I let her go, guess who will be going soon.
Yourself *[he talks brushing his gun]*

Lesiba: What do you mean by letting her go? Are you insane?

Cobra: Maybe it's time for you to be insane too, she knows who she lives with now *[laughing]* she knows everything. *[He hangs up]*

Maria and Maluri

Maria: why are you doing this to me luri? Where have you been? *[Crying]*

Maluri: I do not know mamma, it was tough. *[Crying]*

Maria: Look at yourself, you haven't eaten in a long

time. Let me prepare you something to eat.

Maluri: Thank you man.

Maria prepares for Maluri something to eat

Maria: Food on the table.

Maluri: I missed your meal mamma. For real.

Maria: I also missed cooking for you.

Maluri: It's not safe out there.

Maria: I am sorry my child, I mean for how the place has treated you, it's very bad. Very bad.

Maluri. I miss mom. All these wouldn't have happened if she was here with me. Oh I hate death!

Maria: *(she comforts her)* It will be okay darling, let's eat

[They had being quite for a minute]

Maria: Why are you not eating?

Maluri: *(crying)* they were three! Three mam! Mom will never forgive me, I promised her not to lose my virginity .Mom I am sorry I did not do it ,they did*(crying out loud)*

Maria: *(comforts her)* It will be okay darling I have a plan.

Maluri: *[crying out loud]* they were three mamma! They forced themselves on me! Three men, they were three.

Maria: Can you still recognize the three?

Maluri: He was wearing a black vest written *one life*.
He had a tattoo on his left arm. He... *[Crying]*

Maria: No, stop there baby everything will be okay, I will
go get my car then we go to the police station,
these is very bad.

Lesiba just showed up out of nowhere

Lesiba: No one is going to the Police station *[looking at
maluri with his eyes portrayed warning]*

Maria: But we must put our best foot forward so we can
help Maluri tata.

Lesiba: I have made myself clear! Maluri *[pause]* the
tattoo that you are talking about; did you see it or
you were just seeing the obscurities of your tears?
[Maluri kept quite] Oh silence ... I asked you a
question; did you see the tattoo!

Maria: No, no, no...How do you talk with people? Why
are you yelling at her?

Lesiba: I am not talking to you right.

Maria: Yes you are talking to me...you are talking to me, I
am a woman I know the pain, don't make me call
you an empty vessel.

Lesiba: You say an empty what!

Maluri: It was written Golovan! The tattoo *[pause]* it was
written Golovan yes I saw it! *[She started crying]*

Lesiba: You say it was written what?

Maluri: Golovan, Golovan the black poison; I still remember it, it was on his left hand.

Maria: *[pointing Lesiba]* your friend...your friend...

Lesiba: No it can't be. It can't, not Cobra.

Maria: You know what, it's no use staying here, and Luri get yourself ready we are going to the Police station now!

Lesiba: I said no one is going to the Police station! Let me think

Maria: Think?

Lesiba: Baby let's have a minute in the bedroom *(he goes first and Maria follows)*

[In the bedroom]

Maria: Do not tell me that we are not going to the Police station for the reason that you want to save your friend, that's not going to work on me. Do you even know that the poor girl was raped? Huh, do you have an idea that she was forced-fall by three men, including your so called finest... *[Silence]* this is now getting on my bad side, it really does.

Lesiba: I know...

Maria: You know...?

Lesiba: I mean I know the feeling, when your day sunk in a hideous night and you do not know why, I know the pain when you are tied up and you do

not have whatever thing to free you and you start to cry. I know sweetheart I know.

Maria: I felt it.

Lesiba: We have to support her anyway.

Maria: Then let's not waste time on these; we are going to the Law enforcement agency right now; do not remain seated there.

Lesiba: I am not talking about going somewhere; let's work on giving Maluri support.

Maria: What support! You do not get it right? She was raped; Maluri was raped and you are here as her father just sitting and talking about a hopeless support!

Lesiba: Calm down, Cobra is a very dangerous man darling, hark back to the Asian man that was killed last year after the Police were considering his stolen car, hark back to the school boy who was killed as well after admitting to Police that he works for Cobra, hark back to that... [Interrupted]

Maria: Okay ...okay... [Silence] what are your plans then? You know we just can't stay and fold our arms, there must be something to do, something that would be a benefit to I and Luri; when something like these occurs, I feel like I am the victim.

Lesiba: What are you trying to income through that?

Maria: Sometimes you can say you know a person, when you only know what they let you see (she cries)

Lesiba: *[he sits next to her and comforts her]* is there something you want to talk to me about?

Maria: You won't understand. *[She cries out loud]*

Lesiba: *[he bows his head low]* I knew there was a problem, what had gone out hand darling? Just make me understand.

Maluri heard the cry and snitch to their room

Maria: *[sobbing]* I was 10, residing with my Uncle, my grandparents, my younger sister Tshepiso and my sickening mother, My uncle would do everything for I and my sister. Our school fees, transport and books he paid them all, he was being kind to us, being supportive since our mom was lying on that sickbay bed fighting for her life, the most sad reality I couldn't bear .he made sure we sleep not with empty stomachs , he would buy us everything we demand, everything you know; I was starting to treat him as a father to me, I mean he did it a lot, he qualified .I remember one day when I was late to school, he deficient from work just to take me to school ,wow that was the best part of him ,I believed in him , I took him as someone so true in my heart ,yeah he was. But

there was a day when mom called me in an isolated room. “Maria, you see how the disease is growing on me? I am looking at you my daughter, you are the eldest here, take care of your sister, oh and do not accept everything that your uncle gives you, that man never loved me, I am like these because of him, be aware “she said. “Do not accept everything from your uncle” oh that never worked on me, you know I depended on him for my living. Well it was a blind fortune mom left us, on the same day when mom died, thus when uncle Ngobenj demanded his money back, I was 10 I did not know where to get it, even though it was 7 pounds, I had not any of it. He locked us in his room, I and my sister. he threatened to kill us. I tried shouting “Koko! Rakgolo “but they were not there. They went to the mortuary and left us with him. He took out a gun and said he would kill us slowly if we do not pay his money back. My little sister that was 8 stood up from the bed and that was her last “phaa-phaa” she was shot, oh I didn’t believe my eyes when I saw her lying on the floor with blood on her. I tried to run away but I couldn’t run even a meter, he caught me before I could run...he forced himself on ...

Lesiba: Hold it there...

Maluri: It's sad, why didn't you go to the Law enforcement agency?

Lesiba: How long have you being standing there? You have no manners

Maria: you shouldn't be talking to her like that. Get in Luri.

Maluri: Thanks.

Maria: Well, after all he killed himself .that is the reason why he couldn't be arrested.

Maluri: I am sorry [*she comforts her*]

Scene 9

The next day Lesiba called a family meeting

In the Morning when lesiba and Maria are still on bed

Lesiba: Babe wake up.

Maria: : I wasn't sleeping? For the whole night

Lesiba: you must be kidding.

Maria: I guess not, was just listening to you snoring high.

Lesiba: (laughs) was It bad?

Maria: Mhh it feels good on you. These is not funny, how could I sleep after what happened?

Lesiba: Indeed not good, I thought of it and came with an idea. Do you want to know it?

Maria: You always have ideas but they only work for you.

Lesiba: These one it's for Luri, you know she is not safe outside.

Maria: (she sits on her back) oh seem so interesting, what is it?

Lesiba: I do not know whether it will sound good on you or not, but it can work.

Maria: : stop rolling, talk while you may.

Lesiba: Uhm I think....we ...shall prohibit her.

Maria: You must be mad, she is going nowhere (*she goes back to sleep*)

Lesiba: No wake up.

Maria: For what? For listening to your madness? No baby, no.

Lesiba: I guess you did not understand me.

Maria: Then what did you mean?

Lesiba: Wake up so we can talk (*She woke up*) well I meant we should prohibit her from working in the farm.

Maria: Have you thought about the little souls?

Lesiba: She will work here home, you know you go to work early then you return late and tired , you no

longer get time to cook for us, so it is open that we need a home hand .she can be useful.

Maria: I like your idea, whereas I do not know whether she will too, but I doubt.

Lesiba: What makes you doubt?

Maria: Maybe my mind is just forward, let's try her or try some other way.

Lesiba: Trust me this will work. We just have to make her understand that this is about her safety.

Maria: *(she checks her watch)* Oh it's almost half past ten and we are still on bed, let me check the girls.

Lesiba: Call them for a meeting.

Maria: Absolutely...

Lesiba: bring me a glass of whisky on your way back.

Maria: I am not coming back...

Lesiba: Hey, the bed sought to be....

Maria: You got hands

Lesiba: But [pause] I married myself here!

[In girl's room]

Maria: *(she knocks at the door but get no respond)*

Knock –Knock! Seems like there is nobody here. Hello girls its mom open the door. Knock-knock!

Lesiba: They are outside. *(He says from the room)*

Maria: Whatever, make sure the bed is neat, oh and sweep that room!

Lesiba: Over my dead body [*silently*]

Outside

Maluri: You know I was seeing death just nearby me.

Mmapula: myself I never be in such situation, I wish I could feel your pain.

Maluri: No sister, all will be alright just it will take time.

Mmapula: Look at me [*she holds her hands*] I love you, and I will always be there for you.

Maluri: You have been kind to me since day one, God bless you.

Mmapula: Thanks, I was sophisticating.

Maluri: Uhm about what?

Mmapula: You haven't told anyone about ...

Maluri: Being raped?

Mmapula: yes.

Maluri: No, besides your mother and dad.

Mmapula: Oh I had an idea on how to settle this, I was thinking if we could report this, but it's a blind fortune my father won't allow it since you told him.

Maluri: reporting it where? To the law enforcement agency?

Mmapula: ja.

Maluri: No sister, that's not a good idea .I do not want to look like a bad person, remember I am not a South African.

Mmapula: But you are a human being, we must be treated equal on this creation, we must do this for your sake, your sake sister. Otherwise you stand with what happened to you maybe you enjoyed it.

Maluri: Enjoyed it? How could I enjoy being maltreated? How could I enjoy being tormented? Sister this has just became a burden to me, whenever I go to sleep, I could still hear the echoes their voices "grab her down, now it's my turn" it has just became my daily bread.

Mmapula: I am sorry I did not mean it that way, just I am concerned about you sister. Like every sister would do to their sisters I can't just stay and watch it happening to you. I just can't.

Maluri: I know you do really care but your idea must be ...

Mmapula: shh, quite...mom is coming

[Maria showed up]

Maria: Hello girls (they both replied: Hello Mom) its good seeing you talking, what are you talking about (with delight)

Maluri: Uhm Mmapula was telling me that she knows where I can...

Mmapula: Where she can learn how to play football, she was telling me that she loves it but can't play.

Maria: oh that is so good Luri, do not worry I will take you somewhere, for now your father needs to talk to you.

Maluri: with me?

Mmapula: with who?

Maria: Unequivocally with both of you. Follow me.

Mmapula: (whispers to maluri) do not lose it and talk about our conversation. After their meeting we are going.

Maluri: Uhm what can I say.

Maria: stop whispering there and follow me.

Scene 10

[On the table]

Lesiba: Luri sit down, Mmapula this is not about you my child, go buy bread.

Mmapula: Luri when you are done here you will find me outside then we can go together.

Maluri: Alright .

Lesiba: So let's start, Maria sit down we will need you here.

Maria: Oh Sorry (*she sat down*)

Lesiba: Umh, Luri we have called you here to talk about you.

Maluri: What about me?

Maria: Keep quiet and Listen to your father.

Lesiba: Thanks Maria, we are still on the same page Luri, as you can see from what happened lately ,you are no longer safe here my child; I and your mother were thinking if you can stay here home until things come back to normal.

Maluri: what is the meaning of that?

Maria: What we are trying to income is that you will not work on the farm for this little time, for your safety 's sake; it is too dangerous for you being outside and besides, in the farm there are many workers that some we do not know, the same people who did what they did on you it might happen maybe they are one of our employees ;it make sense since not anyone around knows you but the ones you are working with, ever thought of it?

Maluri: It comes as a surprise ,I can look after myself besides, I really need this job ,if myself I do not work then what about my siblings ,what will they eat? They are looking at me, ever thought of it?

Lesiba: Do not worry about Money.

Maria: Yeah, money is nothing, I and Mmapula's Father Thought of offering you a home hand job; a domestic worker.

Lesiba: Not a big girl like you can't cook; you can cook right?

Maluri: Yes sir I can cook.

Maria: So since it is no longer safe for you to play outside, you will have to spend the quality of your time here home.

Maluri: When will I start working?

Maria: Today.

Lesiba: Not today Maria, I guess she is still coping with stress, aren't you?

Maluri: Yes sir, but I will be alright soon I am just scared.

Maria: It is not a problem, as long as you are okay with the awareness.

Maluri: Can I go now?

Lesiba: Okay.

Scene 11

[AT POLICE STATION]

Police officer 1: Morning girls can I help you?

Mmapula: yes mam, my sister was raped past few days.

Police officer 1: Wait here I will call the supposed officer to help you.

Mmapula: Okay mam.

Police Officer 1: *[on call]* Detective Mokoka, here are your people... He will be here with you soon.

Maluri: *(whispering to Mmapula)* I can't believe we are here.

Mmapula: Relax, everything will be alright.

Maluri: I want to go home.

Mmapula: we already signed here, there is no any other way we can let go of this sister, be patient.

Maluri: I am scared, don't you get it?

Mmmapula: Yes it is a suppose that you be scared sister, I am doing this for you and please do not fail me; promise you are not going to let me down, you know I hate disappointments.

Maluri: Uhm...

Det. Mokoka: Morning girls?

Mmapula: Morning sir, I am Mmapula Pheeha, she is Maluri Zafa and...

Det. Mokoka: I know, follow me.

Scene 12

In Det. Mokoka's Office

Det. Mokoka: That's so sad, when did it happen?
Maluri: On Friday sir.
Det. Mokoka: Do you know any of those men?
Maluri: No but I know who sent them *(she looked at Mmapula)*
Mmapula: *(surprised)* you know who sent them?
Det. Mokoka: Interesting, give me full information about that, who sent them?
Maluri: *(crying)* not now please

Maluri stood up and ran away before the process could end

Mmapula: Uhm sorry sir I will take care of that, she is just going through a lot *(she followed her)*

Scene 13

Mmapula and Maluri

Mmapula: Hey wait for me there.
Maluri: I am sorry, I did not want to do it, and I might get killed.
Mmapula: No one will kill you, okay just tell me who sent them, then I will tell Det. Mokoka.
Maluri: No you do not want to hear it. Let's forget about what happened lately and go on with life.
Mmapula: I am trying to be the best sister ever but you do not see that.

Maluri: I do see it that you are the best and I appreciate you in my life.

Mmapula: No you do not, if you did you wouldn't be keeping secrets for me.

Maluri: I do not keep secrets for you.

Mmapula: Then who did it? Who sent the men to you?

Maluri: Please sister, I humble myself, let's not talk about that, please; it is not the right time for that.

Mmapula: Then when it's the right time? The best time to do something is right now. So, act now luri, there is no time like the present.

Maluri: Okay your father! Your father did it! Is that what you wanted to hear? Is that what you are going to tell Det. Mokoka? Please not now *(She walks home and Mmapula was waiting there still flabbergasted)*

Scene 14

[At Lesiba's house late]

Maria: Mmapula why are you not eating your food?

Mmapula: *(she looked at Maluri and scoffs)* I will eat, I am not starving.

Lesiba: *(laughing)* who is not starving tonight! A person who eats five times a day? It comes as a total surprise.

Mmapula: A surprise indeed. I am going to sleep goodnight everyone.

Maria: No, not now, sit here for a while I have a proposal.

Mmapula: Maluri will tell me when I wake up tomorrow.

Lesiba: stop being stubborn and sit down, you see Maria, she took it from you *(Laughing)*

Maria: From who? *(Laughing)*

Maluri: sir, am as well as my sister Mmapula, I appreciate your hospitality , you all have being kind to me since I arrived, you were like a family to me, indeed you are a family, I am grateful for everything you did for me.

Maria: *(smiling)* you do not have to thank us.

Lesiba: Yeah there is no need for that.

Maluri: well what I am trying to income is by tomorrow I will go back to Zimbabwe, things haven't being the way I thought they could be in South Africa.

Maria: No, Why now Maluri? What are you going to eat at Zimbabwe?

Maluri: I will see what to do.

Lesiba: Yes Maria is right, you do not have to go like that as if you are being chased away.

Mmapula: Maybe it is the least she can do to save her life.

Maluri: Mmapula is right.

Maria: Do not worry about that Luri, we got you here.

Lesiba: Mmapula sit down, I never taught you to stand on your feet in front of your elders; it does not show respect.

Mmapula: Whatever (*she sits*)

Maria: Oh about Maluri's awareness, I have an idea.

Lesiba: What idea?

Maria: Maybe she could bring her siblings here. I know when she sought so disparately to go home she misses them.

Maluri: No mam this is not about missing my siblings. But it is okay I will stay for a month.

Lesiba: indeed, well Maria you were still telling us about your proposal, what was it?

Maria: Oh there is a school trip to Johannesburg, so I was chosen to go with the learners; it is a three weeks trip indeed.

Mmapula: When are you going?

Maria: Next day after tomorrow.

Lesiba: We are happy for you, but on the other hand we are not, who will cook for us? (Laughing)

Maria: Isn't it that Maluri is still here with us, she can be cooking for you a different meal. Isn't it luri?

Maluri: I hear you mam.

Mmapula: I will help her.

Lesiba: No, you will be going to school.

Mmapula: Whatever.

Maria: I did not teach you this kind of behavior, more especially when talking to your father.

Lesiba: It does not surprise me.

Maria: [to Mmapula] your father is right; I know you would like to help Luri but it is a blind fortune you will be going to school, otherwise on weekends.

Maluri: Excuse me please [she stands and go to the bathroom]

Maria: [to Mmapula] what is happening to her?

Mmapula: I do not know I will go check on her.

Maria: No sit I will go check on her myself [pause] this usually means something.

Mmapula: Something like...?

Maria: You do not need to know [pause] for how long had she being acting that way?

Mmapula: A week now since you were away.

Lesiba: It is really a new thing.

Maria: [going to the bathroom] I will be back.

Maria went to the bathroom and found Maluri siting on a toilet seat

Maria: Can I get in?

Maluri: Yes [pause] I am sorry.

Maria: For what? [Pause] Oh you mean what just happened? You do not have to apologize.

Maluri: No I have to [pause] I bad behaved.

Maria: You should not blame yourself for that. For how long have you being vomiting?

Maluri: A week now mam [pause] ja, a week I guess.

Maria: Ever gone to the clinic? I mean you need to know what is happening.

Maluri: I was thinking about that [pause] but it seems to be not a big problem that will force me to go see a doctor. I will be fine.

Maria: No you will not be fine, it's been a week now living with that situation, and you deserve to know what it is in your stomach that denies everything. I will take you there tomorrow.

Maluri: I am grateful for your hospitality but you shouldn't be doing everything for me.

Maria: It is the least I can do to show my responsibility .I am acting as your mother right?

Maluri: I can see that mam and I am very pleased to have a mother of your kind.

Maria: Oh I love seeing that smile on your face.

Maluri: Really?

Maria: Ja little one, it reminds me back when I was your age.

Maluri: Tell me more.

Maria: You mean about my childhood?

Maluri: Ja, I would like to hear about that. It really sounds interesting.

Maria: Interesting indeed. But I guess it is not a right time for fairy stories.

Maluri: If that's about time; then I have enough of it to listen to you the whole day.

Maria: You really want to hear about a silly me right?

Maluri: Of course [pause] yes...

Maria: Let me sit there with you [she sits] okay so when I was your age, I was likely to get ill, just having a little mishap in me and I would pretend to make it huge you know...

Maluri: Why would you do that?

Maria: Just to grab my mother's attention, she really hated to see me sad [scoffs] and when she pity me, I would feel a little heaven just made for me.

Maluri: Your mother loved you.

Maria: She really did, I mean she was over protective.

Maluri: I wish I knew her, do you have her picture, you know a picture worth thousand words.

Maria: I will check that album [pause] so your smile

really take me back to pre-1992 when I was your age. I would literally smile when she says my daughter is not okay.

Maluri: I wish I did not pretend to smile.

Maria: What is the meaning of that?

Maluri: I am missing my mom [pause] If my mother was here everything that happened before would have not happened.

Maria: I am here for you [*she comforts her*]

Scene 15

[Later that night]

Maluri: Mmapula wake up [pause] Wake up Mmapula please I am dying please wake

Mmapula: I am up [pause] oh you are vomiting again, you need to see a doctor.

Maluri: It is not time for that sister, please bring me a useless towel, I messed up your bed.

Mmapula: Okay [she ran to fetch a towel just when she returns she finds that maluri is worn out] Luri ...Luri...Luri stay in put.

Maluri: I am weak I do not know why.

Mmapula: Just stay strong for me, I will call mom.

[Maluri collapsed]

Mmapula: Momma! Momma! Momma! [Maria heard Mmapula calling her so very urgent and did not waste time to be there] Momma it's Maluri.

Maria: What happened? [*Trying to pick her up*]

Mmapula: She was vomiting; she asked me to wake up and fetch a towel to clean the mess but when I return she was no longer her.

Maria: Please help me take her to the car [*On the meanwhile Lesiba got in*] Tata don't just stand there we need your urgent help here.

Lesiba: What happened, I just heard of noise and you getting out of the bed, can somebody tell me what went offhand?

Maria: There is no time for discussion now please [pause] the young lady is dying and you are here questioning on what happened and what did not.

Lesiba: Split out the bones; where can I help?

Maria: Go put the car just near the back door, we will use mine it's a bit faster.

Lesiba: On it.

Scene 16

[They managed to take Maluri to the hospital]

[At the hospital]

Doctor D.: My people, how can I help you?
Maria: well met Doctor; we have a person inside the car, she is really in a bad condition now.
Doctor D: What happened?
Lesiba: I am not paying you for questioning us, a person is dying out there please.
Doctor D: Can we go and see the person?
Maria: Bring something like a bed, wheelchair or anything that can help us pick her up [pause] she cannot walk by herself.
Doctor D: Now can you be telling me what happened? I cannot help her without knowing what went wrong?
Maria: Can you just be unobtrusive for a little, just bring her back her senses then she is the one who can tell you all that you need to know.

After a little while Maluri wakes on a sickbay bed

Doctor D: How are you doing today?
Maluri: Ciao.
Doctor D: Ciao young lady, how are you doing?
Maluri: Just fine as always [pause] why am I here?
Maria: You were vomiting last night and you eventually collapsed so we took you here.
Doctor D: When did you start behaving these way?

Maluri: Few weeks back [pause] yeah I guess.

Doctor D: You have lost too much water that's the reason why you collapsed. [To Maria] Mam is she your daughter?

Maria: Yes doctor.

Maluri: Doctor am I going to be okay?

Doctor D: As long as you cooperate, then by the end of today I would have done servicing you then you can go home. [Lesiba got in holding takeaways] Oh yeah and you also have to eat, I see that your father is having something for you. Besides that, do you mind if I perform all the process just once?

Maluri: Go ahead.

[Doctor D went away for a little and yet returns]

Doctor D: Is everyone still okay? *[They all responded yes]*

Maria: Thanks for your hospitality, I am glad we are taking her home.

Doctor D: Unfortunately not *[taking out a paper in his pocket]* Young lady, did you know that you are pregnant? *[Everyone remained on a mute and they were all surprised]*

Maluri: Am I?

Maria: Is she?

Lesiba: Excuse me *[when he was about to walk out]*

Maluri: *[to lesiba]* wait...

Maria: Doctor tell me, for how long has she being pregnant?

Lesiba: Darling that is a useless question *[pause]* doctor can we go outside and talk a little bit?

Maluri: No one is going outside *[pause]* I am sorry I have to say this.

Maria: What is it young one *[pause]* I am starting to be shocked.

Lesiba: Maria stop forcing her to talk, she is stressed *[pause]* you are a woman you know how stressful it is hearing that you are pregnant, more especially when it is a first born. Maluri has nothing to say, she is just confused.

Maluri: He is the father...

Maria: What? Who is the father?

Maluri: I am sorry mamma, he is the father *[pause]* your husband is the father of my child.

[Maria lost herself after hearing Maluri's confession]

Lesiba: darling do not look at me like that she is just confused.

Doctor: I think I should excuse everyone.

Lesiba: No doctor maybe we can do paternity tests, she is lying... *[To Maluri]* how dare you?

Doctor: Mr. and Mrs. Pheeha I am sorry I will have to excuse you.

Maria: [to Maluri] my husband...you sleep with my husband? [Pointing maluri with a finger] you sleep with my husband! Talk to me before I see myself doing something that I will regret after! How long have you being sleeping with my husband you non-national! Talk to me!

Lesiba: Darling calm down these is not the way you should talk in here... remember these is a hospital.

Maria: Hey! Hey! Do not touch me, who are you to tell me how to talk? Who are you? Tell me who are you?

Lesiba: Calm! See everyone is looking at you, you discomfit me

Maria: Who cares? Who cares Lesiba? Did you think about it before you [pause]...I cannot believe this! I need some time alone please.

Maria ran to the car and drove to a one unidentified apartment where no one ever arrived... On the very same day before the sun could set, a young man arrived at the hospital were Maluri was reserved and shot her gone

Scene 17

In five months' time after Maria received a letter from her daughter Mmapula that explained that Lesiba raped Maluri and he had his hand on Maluri's dismissal. Maria decided to report it to the law of enforcement agency and arrested herself as well for killing Maluri.

[At the Court of law.]

Magistrate: Mrs. Pheeha ; you are accused in place of murder ,The court of law and spectators acclaimed that you have taken two lives from a solitary family; a life of Mrs. Zafa and her unborn child . The court have agreed and decided. Mrs. Pheeha M, you will be sentenced for 20 years in the underworld chamber without bail, without conditional release. *[The court stammers]* .Order! Order Please the session is still on *[the court went silent]* Mr. Pheeha; you are acutely charged for kidnapping Mrs. Zafa, You are charged for raping her and attempted murder. The court have agreed and decided as well, Mr. Pheeha L; you will be sentenced for 25 years in the underworld chamber without bail, without conditional release. However a ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what a ship is for. DISMISS!

Scene 18

In 20 years' time when Maria was on the loose from jail, she had her last extraordinary trip to Zimbabwe to recompense her last high opinion and to apologize to Maluri about what she did.

Maria alone at Maluri's grave

Maria: *[crying]* Luri...Young one ... *[pause]* I heard it all, I heard what happened ja I received a letter, however I am not here for that but to apologize and remind you how I loved you and... that is how it will always be. I am a still a mother to you, a caring mother that you always knew and I have hope even today you still can recognize me. And to me you are still my child, the child that always supported me and gave me a very positive attitude to raise. However I failed you please do not hate me young one. I know I have made your life such a mess ja I did because I was a jerk. I did not render my muse before *[pause]* what I did to you. Please forgive me for discerning you and maltreated your privileges. I wish you could hear me Luri. I wish you could just wake up and say you forgive me!! *[When Maria was still crying on Maluri's grave, she had voices on her behind "How did you know our sister?" it was Maluri's siblings]*

THE END

